



BACI E-NEWS

Building Active Communities Initiative

SPRING 2015

Spring Update

Spring is nearly coming to a close in Montana and we have another full newsletter to update you on how communities across the state are working to build safer, healthier and more livable communities. Partners at the local and state level are coming together to build better relationships and work together to solve complex issues in order to attain better results.

In early March the Montana Bike Walk Summit was held with nearly 100 participants from communities across the state. A full-day Bicycle Facility Design Workshop was well attended by engineers, consultants, MDT and local government staff, community advocates and more. Governor Bullock welcomed participants and he and MDT Director Tooley fielded questions from the audience.

The Bike Walk Montana website and monthly newsletter have a wealth of great information for staff and advocates alike. Access the website, sign up for the newsletter and become a member at: www.bikewalkmontana.org

As we mentioned in the Winter E-News, the U.S. DOT field offices organized bicycle and pedestrian road safety assessments in every state. Montana held their meeting on May 19 with presentations by representatives from FHWA, MDT and Bike Walk Montana. Multiple resources will come out from this safety initiative to help communities build streets that are safer for people walking, bicycling, and taking public transportation. The first of these resources is FHWA's Road Diet Informational Guide available on their website.



Governor Bullock addresses participants at Bike Walk Summit in March

Road Safety Assessment looks for the good and not so good...



Road Safety Assessment: Helena example of a safe and comfortable sidewalk for walking



Examples of missing sidewalks and areas needing improvements were also found

2015 BACI Updates

The 3rd annual Building Active Communities Action Institute was held March 17-19 in Bozeman with four communities in attendance: Hardin, Havre, Park County and Red Lodge. Each community brought a multi-sector leadership team and are working to finalize their Action Plans which they started at the Action Institute. Developing Active Transportation Plans and adopting "complete streets" policies are among the many things they are working on.



Walk Audit at the BACI Action Institute in March

We have more success stories from BACI communities. The City of Polson adopted a Safe and Accessible Streets Policy, on April 6th and the City of Glendive adopted their Safe and Accessible Streets Policy on April 21st. Congratulations to these two communities for making this commitment to building safe and accessible streets and healthier places for residents to walk, bike and take transit. There are now eleven "complete streets" policies adopted in the state. You can find them on our new BACI website: <http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/baci/> along with many other resources.

New Mobility West, a project of the Sonoran Institute, held their third Community Mobility Institute, May 11-13 in Bozeman. This project is active in four states: CO, ID, WY and MT. The BACI communities of Sidney, Glendive, Butte and Kalispell applied and were accepted to this training. There are two parts to this project: trainings and technical assistance. An application to receive new technical assistance from this program is due June 15 and can be accessed at www.newmobilitywest.org.



Glendive was one of nine communities to attend the New Mobility West Community Mobility Institute in Bozeman on May 11-13 in Bozeman

2015 BACI Updates

Soon the Surgeon General of the United States will announce a *Call to Action on Walking and Walkability* (we will keep you updated on this). Consequently there will be a lot of national attention to this issue and a science-based document produced to stimulate action nationwide to solve this major public health problem. We would like to use this opportunity to highlight the good work that is happening in Montana and especially from BACI communities. If you have a success story you would like to share about how you have been working to improve walking or walkability in your community please email Cathy Costakis at costakis@montana.edu and we will highlight your story in our next newsletter, on our website and in a statewide press release once the *Call to Action* is announced.

Action Shots



New Mobility West training attended by nine Montana teams



Sidney team at the New Mobility West training



Action Institute for Increasing Walking and Walkability for Interdisciplinary State Teams held in Nashville, TN May 4-6



Walk audit similar to our BACI Action Institute walk audits only with teams from 12 states participating

Through a competitive application process Montana was selected as one of 12 state and regional teams to participate in a training held in Nashville, TN May 4-6. The purpose of this training was to prepare state-based interdisciplinary teams to pursue policy, systems, and environmental changes and interventions to increase population levels of physical activity, with a focus on walking, leading to commensurate reductions in chronic disease risk and burden. We were tasked with developing an Action Plan as to how we would work more collaboratively in order to support the goal of increasing walking and walkability in the state and in local communities. The team is comprised of members from three state agencies—the Montana Department of Commerce, Transportation and Health—as well as members from Bike Walk Montana and Montana State University's Office of Rural Health. This collaboration work is in its infancy but we will keep you informed of our progress as time goes on. The Montana BACI Action Institute was held up as a model for this state-level Action Institute training!

Our Team

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Get in touch:

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The Building Active Communities Initiative (BACI) is a project of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services' Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (NAPA) in partnership with Montana State University's Office of Rural Health and Bike Walk Montana.

The goal of BACI is to create or enhance community environments so that people of all ages, abilities and income levels can safely walk, bike or take public transportation to places they need to go.



This Project is funded in whole by grant number 5U58-DP003576-03 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.